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Department of Medical Genetics

May 26, 1957

Dr. E. S. Russell ✓  
Jackson Laboratory  
Bar Harbor, Me.

Dear Elizabeth:

The question I am going to ask is hardly more than an idle curiosity. Av' Mitchison mentioned something that suggested you may have done the experiment before the Fire.

Is melanin pigment antigenic? That is to say, is it possible by repeated backcrosses to establish black and albino lines of mice isogenic except for pigmentation; if this has been done, are the lines mutually histocompatible?

My familiarity with the literature in this field is far from profound, but I hadn't noticed this particular experiment. I would have imagined that there might be enough odd applications of a pair of isogenic lines of the sort indicated to justify their production.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg